

approached me in the clinic waiting room, she looked harried. But as she got closer, she could see how unhappy I was, and she put her arm around me and directed me to a private room. I began to cry, and she intuitively responded: "You know, scan days are the worst. But whatever the results, we are not going to give up on you. We're going to fight with you and for you all the way." I hugged her and thanked her for hanging in there with me.

If I have learned anything, it is that we never know when, how, or whom a serious illness will strike. If and when it does, each one of us wants not simply the best possible care for our body but for our whole being.

I still am bound upon Lear's wheel of fire, but the love and devotion of my family and friends, and the deep caring and engagement of my caregivers, have been a tonic for my soul and have helped to take some of the sting from my scalding tears.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GLASS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding citizen of Ohio. This year, James Glass will retire from the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America. A political expert and former business executive, Jim founded and until 1993 was president and CEO of the fund.

Jim served in the aerospace field for 28 years as an executive with the Columbia Aircraft Division of Rockwell International. During his employment with the aerospace giant, Mr. Glass had the responsibility for coordinating Columbus Aircraft Division support for many facets of major programs with NASA and the U.S. Department of Defense. These programs included the B-1 bomber and space shuttle projects.

For over two decades, Mr. Glass has been involved in wildlife, soil, and water conservation. He formerly served as a director of the National Wildlife Federation. In recent years he has worked to defend the rights of sportsmen and the integrity of wildlife management in the face of wildlife protectionist opposition. In 1978, Mr. Glass founded the Wildlife Legislative Fund of the American and the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America in order that sportsmen's interests be represented in the Congress, the courts, and in the state legislatures.

As a former president of the State Senate of the Ohio, I depended on Jim and his organization to keep me informed on the needs of sportsmen. During that time, we worked together on many projects.

Whether looking back on his years in business or his many civic activities, Jim Glass should feel the pride that comes with great accomplishments. I wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

FDA IS CRITICAL TO THE HEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF OUR NATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, regardless of one's view of tobacco, it is clear that an efficient and effective FDA is critical to the health and prosperity of our Nation. Roughly 25 percent of every American consumer dollar spent is spent on products FDA is responsible for overseeing. Tobacco is not one of those products. FDA clearly lacks any semblance of statutory authority to regulate tobacco products as drugs, yet Dr. David Kessler seems intent on pursuing this politically correct agenda at the expense of the agency's core mission.

FDA's product approval process demands the Commissioner's attention. The backlog of pending medical device applications exceed 1,100. Drug approval times averaged 29 months in 1991, despite a statute mandated time limit of 180 days. Approximately 80 percent of the drugs approved by the FDA between 1987 and 1989 were available in other countries an average of 6 years earlier.

While FDA has been investigating and inspecting tobacco company manufacturing processes, inspections of domestic products and manufacturing plants are unacceptably low. Recent rates indicate that FDA will visit each of the 90,000 establishments subject to inspection every 6 years instead of the two required by statute.

Dr. Kessler may say the agency is improving, but the fact remains under his leadership the agency continues to fail to meet its statutory obligations. In April 1995, Dr. Charles Edwards—FDA Commissioner from 1969 to 1973—criticized the FDA for spending valuable resources investigating tobacco while it is unable to perform important functions within its authority. Dr. Edwards said:

FDA's paternalistic tendency in recent years is, in my opinion, more than bad policy. It is bad management. It diverts limited resources from key tasks and drug and medical device approvals.

And in response to a question, Dr. Edwards directly criticized Dr. Kessler's private crusade against tobacco products. "I feel very strongly about this, that you cannot regulate human behavior. This is really an issue for the Surgeon General." He added, "I think issues like this divert the resources of the Agency—enormous resources of the Agency."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to end Dr. Kessler's ill-conceived crusade against tobacco. Clearly, the Agency does not have the resources to justify it. Further, it lacks the legal authority to regulate tobacco products. It is high time the President directed Dr. Kessler to run the FDA in a manner the American people deserve and that he abandon his thinly veiled crusade to begin our inexorable march towards America's next experiment with prohibition.

PENSION SIMPLIFICATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a bill, H.R. 2037, which will make it easier for small businesses to offer pensions to their employees. This may not sound terribly exciting to most people, but it has the potential to enhance the retirement savings of millions of Americans. Currently, pension plans are so heavily regulated and so expensive to administer that only 19 percent of small employers—those with less than 25 employees—sponsored a pension plan at all. My bill will restore flexibility to our outmoded and bureaucratic pension laws and thus encourage employers, including both large and small businesses, to offer and maintain retirement plans that are vital to the retirement security of our Nation's workforce.

My bill removes many of the burdens that small businesses face when trying to provide retirement programs for their employees. It will also make it easier for small businesses to provide retirement security for millions of Americans by providing a tax credit for starting a new pension plan. In addition, it removes the complex discrimination rules for small employers and exempts small businesses from the minimum participation rules.

The response from small businesses in my district to this proposal has been overwhelmingly positive. For instance, one employer said "the present law is far too complex, and is a serious deterrent to creating an employer sponsored benefit plan." Another explained that "As small business owners, we wholeheartedly support—the Portman—effort to simplify the employee pension plans, thereby, giving the necessary relief to the many small businesses that are presently not able to participate in these plans."

A local realtor explained that:

I concur that the current complexities, administrative burdens, contributions and distribution rules and regulations tend to discourage rather than encourage retirement savings. . . . When I was in the banking business, we found it a difficult process to properly and accurately establish and serve as an administrator on various KEOGH and self employed pension plans. Small business owners were either intimidated or frustrated with all the complicated rules, regulations, definitions and administrative "hassles" on the establishment, funding and distribution in these retirement plans.

And a retailer in Batavia, OH said, "These are overdue changes * * * we have had a married couple who work for us get snagged for 2 years in a row by the unfair family aggregation rules. Repeal of these rules * * * makes a great deal of sense."

Pension laws are complex and confusing. Since 1980, Congress has passed an average of one law per year affecting private sector pensions. As the rules and regulations governing pension plans have multiplied, defined benefit pension plans have become less and less attractive to employers. As a result, pension plan termination have consistently outpaced the growth of new plans.

At a time when our national savings rate is so low, we should be encouraging private sector retirement savings, not crippling pension plans with more and more regulation.